

THE MOUNT

Mount St. Mary's College, Los Angeles ✦ *Spring/Summer 2014*

In Service to Veterans

*Supporting veterans,
enriching the Mount*



Gender and Media Research ✦ MFA in Film & Television

from the president

Dear Friends,

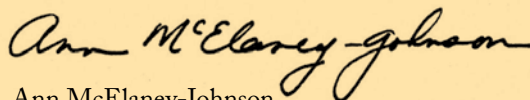
As we conclude the first year of our new Strategic Plan, I am proud to share how Mount St. Mary's College continues to live our mission and the legacy of our Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in new and dynamic ways. In our efforts to respond to the needs of our students and our world, we have developed new majors and programs along with strategic partnerships to ensure the success of our graduates.

I am delighted to report the launch of our new MFA in Film and Television at the Mount. This program complements our new, exciting partnership with the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media at Mount St. Mary's, and the research our faculty and students are conducting on the portrayal of women and girls in television and films.

In this issue, you will also hear from veterans who have enrolled in various degree programs at the College. We all benefit from the breadth and depth of life experiences of our veterans, and we are pleased and proud to support them in their educational journeys.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that Mount St. Mary's College was recently awarded a 10-year re-accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. This amazing accomplishment reaffirms our commitment to providing the highest quality education for our students, and is something of which we should all be proud.

With warmest regards,



Ann McElaney-Johnson
President





The Screen Effect

MSMC research examines the portrayal of women and girls in media.

page 10

MFA in Film & Television Debuts at the Mount

Behind the scenes at the program's new home in a historic Hollywood studio.

page 13

The Journey to 'Tamale Road'

One professor's film about rediscovering family roots in El Salvador.

page 14

In Service to Veterans

How student-veterans are advancing a new mission at the Mount.

page 18

ON THE COVER: Megan Rodriguez '14, an Air Force veteran
and a political science major at the Mount.
Photo by Glenn Marzano.

page 2
In the Moment

page 3
College News

page 4
From the Faculty

page 23
Advancing the Mission

page 24
Alum Community

page 28
Calendar

page 29
From the Archives



Photo submitted by Rose Collins.

A memorable encounter

Rose (Cracchiolo) Collins '54 almost missed the most memorable moment of her life thus far. She was standing in front of Pope Francis, on the steps of St. Peter's Square, and she was speaking to him in Italian. She was so enthralled that her brain could not comprehend what was transpiring during those few precious seconds.

"I don't even remember the Pope blessing me. I was in ecstasy," Collins says.

Collins was in Rome on Nov. 6 as a guest of the Vatican Observatory, the astronomical research institution headquartered in the papal residence in Castel Gandolfo in Italy. Collins has been visiting Rome every two years since she became a member of the Vatican Observatory Foundation 15 years ago. But last November was the first time the Observatory's director, Fr. Jose G. Funes, S.J., asked her to accompany him during his private audience with the pope before the papal address to the general audience at St. Peter's Square.

"The opportunity to talk to the pope was something I would never, ever expect," Collins says. She is grateful there are photos, like the one above, as a reminder of "how blessed I now am." ♣

MISSION STATEMENT

Mount St. Mary's College in Los Angeles offers a dynamic learning experience in the liberal arts and sciences to a diverse student body. As a Catholic college primarily for women, we are dedicated to providing a superior education enhanced by an emphasis on building leadership skills and fostering a spirit to serve others. Our measure of success is graduates who are committed to using their knowledge and skills to better themselves, their environments and the world.

Mount St. Mary's College is a diverse community committed to providing an environment that is free from discrimination on the basis of any characteristic protected by federal, state or local law, ordinance or regulation.

THE MOUNT

Spring/Summer 2014
Vol. 30, No. 1

EDITOR
Pia Abelgas Orense

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Debbie Ream

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Phillip Jordan

CLASS NOTES EDITOR
Barbara (Dummel) Brunner '63

DESIGN
San Luis Design

PHOTOGRAPHY
Justin Edmonds, Paul Martin,
Glenn Marzano, Watchara Phomicinda,
Carrie Rosema, MSMC Archives

PRINTING
Pace Marketing Communications

© Copyright 2014. The Mount is published
by Mount St. Mary's College, division of
Institutional Advancement.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
The Mount, 10 Chester Place, Los Angeles,
CA 90007.

To contact the editor or submit a
story idea, write to Pia Abelgas
Orense, assistant director of public
relations, Mount St. Mary's College, 10
Chester Place, Los Angeles, CA 90007;
e-mail porense@msmc.la.edu; or call
213.477.2504. Class Notes news should be
mailed to Alumnae Relations at the same
address or e-mailed to alums@msmc.la.edu.

For Information
Alumnae Relations: 213.477.2767
Business Office: 310.954.4040
Chalon Campus: 310.954.4000
Doheny Campus: 213.477.2500
Financial Aid: 310.954.4190
Graduate Admission: 213.477.2800
Institutional Advancement: 213.477.2764
Undergraduate Admission: 310.954.4250
Weekend College: 213.477.2866



Photos: Glenn Marzano

Clockwise, from top left: MSMC President Ann McElaney-Johnson welcomes a sold-out crowd to the Mount's Doheny Campus. Vicky Brown, founder of Idomeneo Enterprises, discusses "Los Angeles through a Gender Lens." Kelly Jenkins-Pultz, of the U.S. Department of Labor's Women's Bureau, and Sheila Kuehl, former California legislator, offer a policy perspective on closing gender gaps. Helen Boutrous, chair of MSMC's History and Political Science department, shares highlights from this year's Report.

Nearly 1,000 gather at MSMC for release of 2014 Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California®

On March 27, Mount St. Mary's College issued its 2014 Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California®. For the first time, the Report includes an in-depth comparison between the more than 19 million women and girls living in California and the 5 million-plus females living in Los Angeles County.

The Report, which is available at statusofwomen.msmc.la.edu, was released during a public forum at the College's Doheny Campus. A crowd of nearly 1,000 heard from speakers such as Constance Rice, co-founder of the Advancement Project, award-winning national journalist Tess Vigeland, and Academy Award® winner Geena Davis.

"Gender equality is not just a women's issue. It is a human issue, and it is an economic issue that is key to the vitality of our state," said Mount St. Mary's College President Ann McElaney-Johnson. "Only by pulling together disparate data can we see a complete picture of the current challenges facing women and girls — particularly those of color — in Los Angeles County and California."

During the event, L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti announced, via video message, a new research partnership between the City of Los Angeles and Mount St. Mary's College.

"A key part of my 'Back to Basics' agenda is to make City Hall a place where decisions are based on data, and we track progress with concrete metrics," said Garcetti. "I'm pleased to announce that the City of Los Angeles is partnering with Mount St. Mary's College to develop a series of briefs that will provide data on women and girls specific to our city that will better enable my administration to identify the greatest needs and prioritize our work to address them."

Commencement to be held at Shrine Auditorium

Starting this year, the College's commencement ceremony will be held at the Shrine Auditorium and Expo Hall, a Los Angeles historic landmark located only blocks from the Doheny Campus. The auditorium was built in 1906 as a civic center and home base for the Al Malaikah Shriners. When it was rebuilt and expanded in 1926, it quickly became the hub of entertainment in Los Angeles. Today, it's one of the largest theaters in Southern California, with a capacity of 6,300.

Commencement 2014 will be held May 12, featuring a commencement address by Dr. Maryann Cusimano Love, an author and an associate professor of International Relations at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

As a core member of the U.S. State Department's working group on Religion and Foreign Policy, Love makes recommendations to the U.S. Secretary of State on how the U.S. government can better engage with civil society and religious actors in foreign policy. She also served as a Fellow at the Commission on International Religious Freedom and works with the Foreign Service Institute to create training materials on religion and foreign policy.



Dr. Maryann Cusimano Love

from the faculty

Laurence Denié-Higney, adjunct instructor of language & culture, presented "Assessment: Focus and Accountability in a World Without Walls" at the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages' annual Convention and World Languages Expo in November 2013 in Orlando, Fla.

Michele Fine, associate professor of language & culture, presented "Ces femmes qui ont fait la France (Women who have made France)" to the Salon Français in Hancock Park, Calif., in October 2013.

Pam Gist, chair of the psychology department, traveled to Nepal in December 2013 to begin a research study on the impact of programs that have been created to reduce sex trafficking in the South Asian nation. The College is funding the research.

Joan Johnson, English instructor, had her play "The Girl in the Caboose" performed at the Sharon Marie Carnicke's Studio 1 Open House in November 2013. Johnson is the resident playwright for Studio 1.



Photo: Glenn Marzano

College unveils Wall of Inspiration

Supporters of the College were among the first to see Chalon Campus' new Wall of Inspiration, a space dedicated to honoring the Mount's community of donors and friends, during a special unveiling ceremony on Feb. 20. The wall is part of the Chalon Grand Entrance remodeling project and is located on the north outside wall of the renovated Campus Center. The wall faces the new Plaza, which offers sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean and the Getty Center.

After the unveiling, scholarship donors got the chance to meet their student recipients during the annual Scholarship Luncheon. It was an opportunity for the students to get to know and thank in person the generous donors who help fund their education. For more info on how you can support the Mount and add a tile to the Wall of Inspiration, e-mail msolano@msmc.la.edu.

President Emerita receives 2014 Hesburgh Award

Jacqueline Powers Doud, MSMC president emerita, accepted the 2014 Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, CSC Award at an awards banquet in Washington, D.C., in February. The Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities bestowed the award on Doud, a former member of the organization's board of directors, for her outstanding contributions to Catholic higher education.





Photo: Phillip Jordan

Fulfilling a legacy of service

More than 200 Mount St. Mary's students, alums, faculty, staff and friends of the College answered President Ann McElaney-Johnson's "Invitation to Serve" on Saturday, March 29. This is the eighth consecutive year that the Mount has set aside a day to highlight the importance of community service, one of the pillars of the Mount experience.

The President's Invitation to Serve honors the legacy of the College's founding Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. This year, MSMC volunteers worked at seven sites across Los Angeles, helping to clean beaches, feed the homeless and plant new community gardens.

All are invited to participate in this annual call to service. Save the day for next year's Invitation to Serve, which will take place on Saturday, March 21, 2015.

'Vatican II at 50' forum discusses role of church in the world

This February, the College hosted the fourth forum of the "Vatican II at 50: A Symposium" series, an eight-part project marking the convening of the Second Vatican Council 50 years ago.

With the second year of the symposium focusing on "Scholarship that Supports Interreligious Dialogue," the Doheny Campus forum discussed the role of "The Church in the World and the World Church." It featured keynote speaker Dr. Carmen Nanko-Fernández, a Latin theologian from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, and respondents Fr. Guillermo Garcia, MSMC assistant professor of religious studies, and Loyola Marymount University professor Susan Abraham.

The symposium series is co-sponsored by the religious studies departments of MSMC and LMU.



Photo: Watchara Phomicinda

from the faculty

Sister Mary McKay '67, CJS, is the new congregational director for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet community, the highest leadership position for the order. She moved to St. Louis, Mo., in January to begin her new role with the CSJs. A professor at the Mount since the late 1990s, McKay most recently served as religious studies department chair.

Nancy Pine, professor emerita, published an article, "In schooling, China and the U.S. can learn from each other," about her observations on education in the online version of *The China Daily* newspaper in October 2013. Also that month, Pine spoke about her book, "Educating Young Giants," at several institutions on the East Coast, including the Yale-China Association in Connecticut and the China Institute of America in New York.

Marsha Sato '77, director of the Master of Science in Nursing program, and **Jean Gima '81**, instructor in the MSN program, presented their abstract "Award for Best Picture" at the American Association of Colleges of Nursing 2014 Master's Education Conference in Scottsdale, Ariz., in February. Their abstract discussed the use of technology, particularly iPads, in the classroom to enhance, integrate and coordinate care.

from the faculty

Elizabeth Sturgeon, associate professor of English, recently contributed as an editor on an online edition of "Hamlet." Her article "John Colet" was published in The Literary Encyclopedia in July 2013. She also presented "Documenting 'the Real': Contemporary Histories in John Foxe's 'Book of Martyrs,' John Stow's 'A Survey of London,' and William Harrison's 'The Description of England'" at the Sixteenth Century Society & Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in October 2013.

Shelly Tochluk, education department chair, presented "Tools Supporting the Creation of Inclusive School Communities" at the California NAME conference in January at California State University at Fullerton, and was a keynote speaker for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's diversity week festivities in March.



For more faculty accomplishments, go to www.msmc.la.edu/academics/provost



Photo: Glenn Marzano

L.A. County's top female politicians convene at MSMC for Ready to Run™

Last year, fewer women served in California state and local governments than in 2012. To help reverse that trend, Mount St. Mary's College on Feb. 8 hosted Ready to Run™, a nonpartisan, campaign-training program designed to encourage women to run for public office or otherwise get involved in public service.

"We need gender balance in every workplace, but we especially need it in politics," said keynote speaker L.A. City Councilmember Nury Martinez, the only female elected official in Los Angeles city government. "Decisions that directly affect us are being made without us."

Participants received advice from political figures such as Wendy Greuel, former L.A. city controller and the runner-up in L.A.'s 2013 mayoral race; Assemblymember Cristina Garcia; and Mayors Aja Brown, of Compton, and Abbe Land, of West Hollywood. Alums Karina Macias '10 and Olivia Rubio '04 participated as panelists. Macias was elected to the Huntington Park City Council in 2013 and Rubio was appointed this year by Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti to serve on the city's Board of Neighborhood Commissioners.



Powerful speakers highlight Women's Leadership Conference

Trailblazers in the fields of medicine and sports, heart surgeon Dr. Kathy Magliato and Paralympic medalist Bonnie St. John offered leadership lessons to a sold-out crowd at Mount St. Mary's College's 2013 Women's Leadership Conference last fall.

The conference took place at a pivotal time in Los Angeles, where women hold fewer business and political positions of leadership in the nation's second-largest city. According to Mount St. Mary's latest Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California®, those trends extend beyond L.A. In California alone, just 9 percent of the state's mayors are female. Only 3 percent of the state's CEOs are women, and California females comprise just 11 percent of corporate boards.

MSMC alum named a 2013 American Academy of Nursing Fellow

The American Academy of Nursing named 172 new fellows from throughout the United States in 2013. Mount St. Mary's alum Nancy Blake '80 was among the 10 nurses from California selected in this year's class of inductees.

Blake, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, CCRN, is the patient care services director in critical care services at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. She has held the role for more than 15 years, and prior to the position served as manager of the pediatric intensive care unit and the pediatric emergency department at Children's Hospital.

After Blake received her BSN from Mount St. Mary's, she went on to earn her master's from UCLA in nursing administration and recently received her doctorate degree in nursing at UCLA.

Simulation opens students' eyes to realities, complexities of poverty

Over two days in September, more than 100 Mount St. Mary's College nursing students role-played what it's like for low-income families to navigate health, government and community resources in order to provide shelter, food, medicine and other basic necessities for their families.

The goal was to give students an understanding, and empathy, for those who live in poverty. Developed by the Missouri Association for Community Action, this marked the first time that the respected Community Action Poverty Simulation has been run in California.

"We started with our nursing students because once they get to their clinical setting, we want them to understand where some of their low-income patients might be coming from," says Diane Vines, dean of nursing at the Mount. "Their problems are so much more complex than the fact that they're sick and need healthcare. That's only one of many things going on in their lives."

During the simulation, students from the Mount's Traditional Bachelor of Science in Nursing program were grouped into "families." Each student was assigned to play a role and every family was given a set of circumstances and a limited amount of resources. The family then had to survive a virtual month of scenarios that included finding work, applying for food stamps, raising children, and navigating a gauntlet of governmental and community resources — staffed by volunteers from the College's faculty, staff and student body.



MSMC among nation's top 20 healthiest colleges

The Daily Beast news site compiled a list of the "20 Healthiest Colleges in the United States." MSMC landed at No. 18 on the list, scoring high marks for healthy campus dining, best drug-free campuses and best school for non-drinkers.

MSMC, John Tracy Clinic receive \$1.2 million grant for scholarship

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded Mount St. Mary's College and John Tracy Clinic with a \$1.2 million grant. Over the next five years, this award will primarily provide scholarships to 32 students pursuing a master's degree in education with an emphasis in deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) and a California teaching credential. These students will receive specialized training and expertise in the development of audition, speech and language so that they can provide early intervention services for infants, toddlers and children with hearing loss and their families. Graduates of this new program will also help fill a critical shortage of DHH special education teachers.



Photo: Glenn Marzano

Visiting Chinese scholar brings new perspective

Mount St. Mary's Department of Language and Culture is enjoying the insights of an additional professor this spring semester. Chinese instructor Jing Zhang is serving as a visiting scholar at the College's Chalon Campus.

A professor of English at China's Gannan Normal University since 1992, Zhang is also the deputy director of Gannan Normal's division of International Cooperation & Exchange. She received her MA in English language and literature from Shanghai Normal University in 2003.

In addition to conducting research, Zhang is also speaking at seminars and as a guest lecturer while at the Mount. When she returns to China, she will incorporate her new research into her teaching of American culture and history to Chinese students.

"We are so delighted to have Jing here with us," says Montserrat Reguant, chair of MSMC's Department of Language and Culture. "This is such a benefit for both of us. She is learning and researching while she's here, and we are able to gain from her expertise and knowledge."



Photo: Pia Orense

Entertainer will.i.am talks about the future of technology in education

Los Angeles native will.i.am is many things: a musician, producer, entrepreneur and a philanthropist, to mention a few. On Feb. 18, he was a special guest speaker at Mount St. Mary's College's Doheny Campus.

The seven-time Grammy® winner and frontman for The Black-Eyed Peas was on campus to talk about one of his biggest off-stage passions: the intersection of education and technology. And he encouraged Mount St. Mary's students to think about a career in the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and math.

"There is no shortage of basketball players, or musicians, or entertainers, or Instagram uploaders," he said. "But there *is* a shortage of engineers! We don't have enough young women like you grow up saying, 'I want to be an engineer!' We need you."

will.i.am, who was born William Adams in Los Angeles' Boyle Heights neighborhood, shared how getting a robotics program started in his hometown school was the genesis of his interest in technology.

"If you're from somewhere that's struggling, all you hear people say is 'I can't wait to get outta here,'" he said. "Nobody from the 'hood says 'I can't wait to *change* things here.' So we have to change that mindset. And technology in education is the way to do it."

will.i.am's focus on education and technology extends to his "i.am angel foundation," which helps to provide future leaders and innovators with comprehensive financial assistance for college students. The "i.am.angel Foundation" has also created i.am.STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math), in collaboration with Discovery Education, to provide underserved elementary students with learning and interaction opportunities beyond the classroom.

Top screenwriters share industry insights at series sponsored by new MFA in Creative Writing program

Talented voices from some of the most popular shows on television and film spoke at Mount St. Mary's College this school year, as part of the Mount's open-to-the-public "Distinguished Voices in Writing" forums.

On Jan. 16, Mount St. Mary's welcomed the husband-and-wife writing team from AMC's hit show "Mad Men." Andre and Maria Jacquemetton have written as a duo for television drama series for more than two decades. Together, they have earned four Writers Guild of America Awards, two Producers Guild Awards, three writing Emmy nominations and have shared in three "Mad Men" best drama series Emmys.

The speakers series kicked off in September with Dan O'Shannon ("Modern Family," "Cheers" and "Frasier"). Glen Mazzara ("The Walking Dead," "The Shield," and "Hawthorne") and MSMC's own author, poet and filmmaker Marcos McPeck Villatoro were the featured guests in October and November.

The series was designed to bring great voices in creative writing to the Mount as inspiration to students and alums, and to provide a new public opportunity to the community by offering a forum for creative discussions.

The College's Graduate Humanities program and the new MFA in Creative Writing program sponsored the series. The MFA in Creative Writing Program begins accepting students this fall, offering students the opportunity to take literature and culture classes in the MA Humanities Program while working on a creative thesis, novel, collection of poetry, short stories, or screenplay.



Students dance to benefit Children's Hospital of Los Angeles

Last fall, Mount St. Mary's College students hosted a pair of fundraisers for Children's Hospital of Los Angeles. The two events – an Electric Dance Marathon and a Charity Ball – brought in more than \$6,750 for the hospital's work.

Students involved with the College's Chalon Fitness Center hosted the Electric Dance Marathon. Athenians served as DJs, singers and dance instructors for the evening — keeping fellow students on their feet for five hours straight. Dancers also had the chance to meet with a pair of families whose children have benefitted from the care and treatment they received at Children's L.A.

While the Electric Dance Marathon was a first-time fundraiser, the Charity Ball continues an annual tradition for students involved in Chalon's Associated Student Body. ♣



MSMC showcases accomplishments; receives 10-year re-accreditation

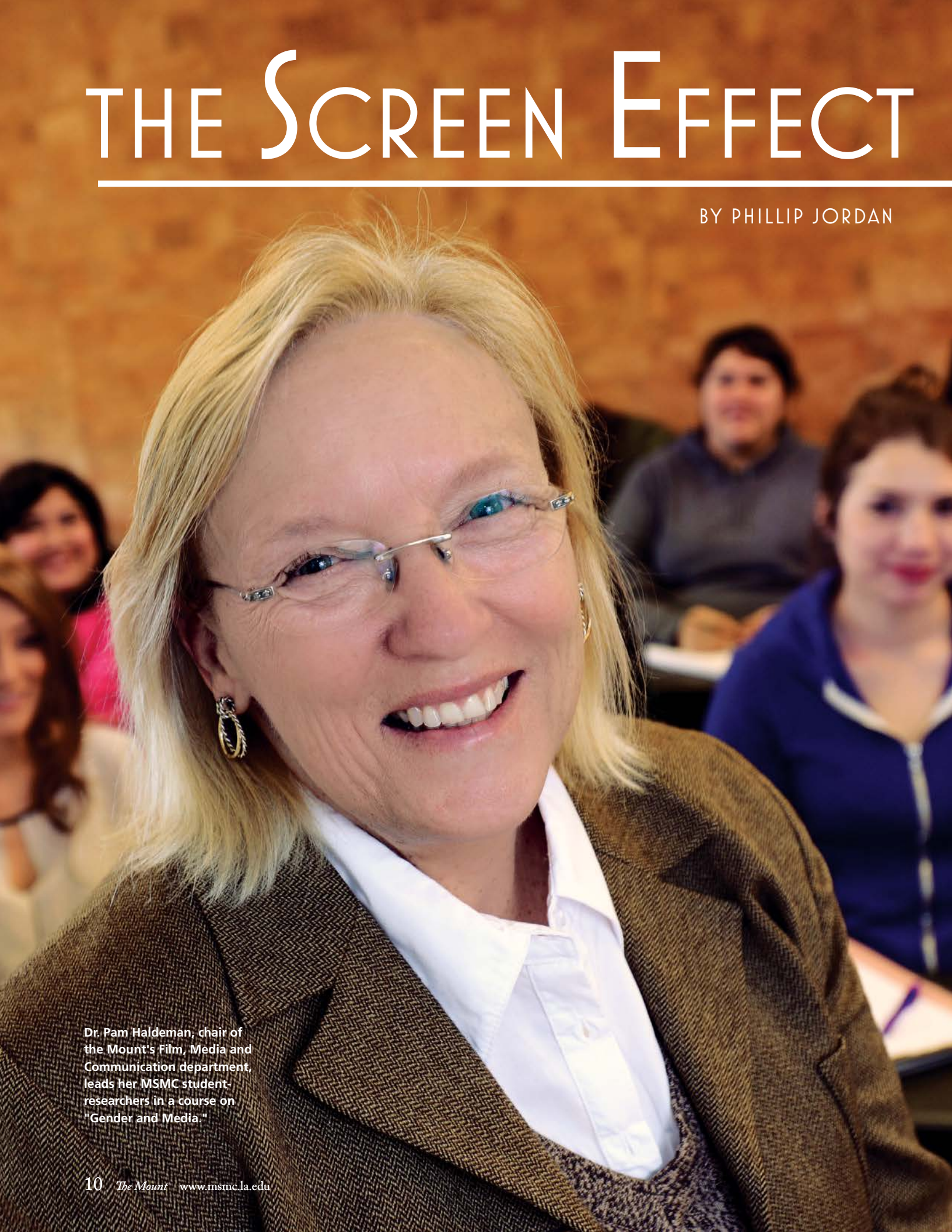
Representatives from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges' (WASC) Senior College and University Commission re-accreditation team visited Mount St. Mary's last fall to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the institution.

This spring, the College received word that WASC will re-affirm the Mount's accreditation for the maximum period of 10 years.

In its report, the WASC Commission commended Mount St. Mary's for its financial viability, leadership, and assessment activities as they related to student learning and student support services. It also noted that the College is "one of the most mission-driven institutions we've ever experienced," and applauded the extensive involvement of faculty, staff and trustees in reflecting a model of "inclusivity and commitment to community that exemplifies the mission."

THE SCREEN EFFECT

BY PHILLIP JORDAN



Dr. Pam Haldeman, chair of the Mount's Film, Media and Communication department, leads her MSMC student-researchers in a course on "Gender and Media."

STUDENT RESEARCHERS DISCOVER GENDER INEQUITY ON PRIMETIME TELEVISION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GEENA DAVIS INSTITUTE ON GENDER IN MEDIA AT MOUNT ST. MARY'S COLLEGE

During the fall of 2013, a class of undergraduate research students at Mount St. Mary's studied, in real time, how female characters were portrayed in new primetime programming on television.

The research revealed several sobering discoveries, such as how few competent, female role models appear in nightly shows. The lack of role models becomes even more pronounced for girls and women of color, considering that 86 percent of new, primary female characters are white. And during the only time of day when most families are together, just 23 percent of new, primetime TV shows in the fall were rated appropriate for children 12 years of age or under.

These findings are among the first fruits of the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media at Mount St. Mary's College. The Mount officially announced its partnership with the Institute last fall, with the goal of creating new research, educational and advocacy programs at the College.

Founded by Academy Award®-winning actor and advocate Geena Davis, the Institute's mission is to dramatically alter how girls and women are reflected in the media — using research like what Mount St. Mary's captured last fall.

"This alliance mutually strengthens both organizations and enables us to have a greater influence on issues that impact women's livelihoods and wellbeing," says Mount St. Mary's College President Ann McElaney-Johnson. "It also provides our students with incredible learning opportunities that directly

affect their own lives."

The Institute on Gender in Media at Mount St. Mary's College grew organically out of an existing relationship between the two organizations. Since 2012, Davis has spoken about gender inequalities in the media as part of the College's annual release of its Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California®.

"In working with Mount St. Mary's, it became clear to me that our missions are thoroughly aligned where it comes to seeking equal opportunity for women in all fields," Davis says. "I'm excited to see what additional insights and progress this partnership will generate."

Mount St. Mary's has already added a gender and media minor to its offerings. This spring, students from the first "Gender and Media" course are assisting in a new research project: "Gender and Media: The Influence of Film and Television on Girls' Occupational Aspirations."

"This is an important study because we're a women's college and we have women who aspire to a wide variety of careers," says Pam Haldeman, chair of the Mount's film, media & communication department, and the study's principal investigator. "Yet media is influencing what careers they choose. Not too many film programs look at media and filmmaking through a gender lens. It's very empowering for our students to be part of something like this with the Institute."

Celine Gomez '15 signed up for the "Gender and Media" class as part of what she calls her own women's studies semester. In addition to

Haldeman's class, Gomez is also taking courses on "Women in Politics" and "Sexual Ethics."

"I think it's a great perspective to receive, especially going to a women's college," Gomez says. "I'm interested in learning how deeply the media can affect life decisions that young women like me might make."

Cindy Wlasowich '16 isn't in Haldeman's current course this spring, but she volunteered on the fall report, and will again assist in this spring's research. Wlasowich is a working adult and an applied/research psychology major in the Mount's Weekend College program. She's worked administrative jobs in the entertainment industry with companies such as Warner Brothers, Dreamworks and NBC Universal. She also has a more personal motivation to participate in such research.

"I look at some of the shows on TV and it's hard for me to believe that women are still being portrayed in these ways in 2014," Wlasowich says. "I can't imagine what perspective this gives my 17-year-old daughter, much less a girl who's 9 or 10."

"We need to make sure that what's out there gives an accurate representation of *all* women," she says. "Women with brains. Women who are comfortable in their own skin. Individuals who are strong and powerful, who just happen to be women." ♣



To learn more about the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media at Mount St. Mary's College — and to read the "Fall 2013 Snapshot of New Television Programs" — visit www.msmc.la.edu/genderandmedia and www.seejane.org.



2014 REPORT ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN CALIFORNIA®

The results of last fall's "Gender & Media" research, led by Dr. Haldeman, were also published in Mount St. Mary's 2014 Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California®. Geena Davis, pictured above, presented the research's key findings as part of her speech during the College's public event releasing this year's Report. Davis' talk offered a challenging, inside look at how female characters are being portrayed in film and television.

MFA IN FILM & TELEVISION

DEBUTS AT THE MOUNT

IN

BY
JOANNA
BANKS

this entertainment mecca filled with marquee names and big ideas, Mount St. Mary's College is in pre-production on its own blockbuster.

This fall, the Department of Film, Media & Communication will offer a master of fine arts degree in film & television. The two-year, co-ed program will be held on weekends to accommodate both working professionals and aspiring young filmmakers, and includes extensive hands-on training. "We will have a very low student-to-instructor ratio, and the students will have tremendous access, full access, to editing equipment right away," says Pam Haldeman, department chair. "They're not going to have to wait to do real production work."

Prominent instructors have come aboard to develop students' experiences, including Cheryl Boone Isaacs, the first African American and third woman to be elected president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Catherine Paura '07 MA, a pioneer in film marketing as well as chair and CEO of Capstone Global Marketing & Research Group, will also share her expertise with students. Actors' workshops are being planned, as well as a string of lectures from visiting professionals. All of this will take place at the MFA's new headquarters on The Lot, a historic Hollywood studio built in 1919 during the Silent Era of film. The studio that once served as home to United Artists and Warner Bros. now hosts companies such as Oprah Winfrey's OWN Network and popular shows like "True Blood" and "Game of Thrones."

"We're thrilled to have a home at The Lot," says filmmaker and writer Ron Fernández, who will lead the MFA faculty as program director. "This is a studio that holds such an important place in Hollywood history, and it continues to serve as a vibrant filmmaking locale today."

The MFA represents a broadening of the College's academic array of film degrees. The MFA program shares a focus on human stories with MSMC's innovative bachelor of science degree in film, media and social justice. However, MFA coursework will be carefully tailored to a student's interests, from sound mixing and special effects to directing and screenwriting. Each student will be issued a high-resolution, production-quality Red camera, the same ones used to shoot high-profile films like "The Hobbit" and "Thor."

It's not just about having the latest technology, though. "We want our students to develop their voice and to have a message to spread and to send," says Kelby Thwaites, an actor, singer and full-time instructor in the film, media and communication department. "We want them to become storytellers and advocates using their writing skills for screenwriting, and their creative and artistic skills in editing and film production."

Haldeman envisions an international recruitment effort to draw students with diverse perspectives. She says the hallmark of the MFA will be its mentoring model. "Upon graduation, our goal is to ensure that the graduate has landed a job or selected a job in the industry and has something lined up," she says. ♣



THE JOURNEY TO 'TAMALE ROAD'

HOW A COUPLE OF COLLEAGUES HELPED
PROFESSOR MARCOS MCPEEK VILLATORO
CREATE A MEMOIR ABOUT
REDISCOVERING HIS ROOTS

BY PHILLIP JORDAN



There is a scene from his youth that Marcos McPeek Villatoro will never forget. He was a teenager, and he and his mother — “both insomniacs,” he says — were up late watching “Casablanca.” A cigarette dangled from his mother’s fingers. In her other hand, a glass of whiskey.

“Without even looking at me,” Villatoro recalls, “she says, ‘Hijo, I will disown you for two reasons. I will disown you if you get married before college because you can be the first in your whole family to go to college.’”

“I said, ‘OK, what’s the second reason?’ She looks at me, and says very slowly, ‘If you ever give away the family tamale recipe, I will disown you. If this whole writing thing doesn’t work out, you might be able to open up a restaurant.’”

Villatoro’s writing career has, in fact, worked out just fine. He is a novelist, poet and essayist. He has won a Best Book honor from the Los Angeles Times, and has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize. He is also the director of journalism & new media at Mount St. Mary’s College and the Fletcher Jones Endowed Chair in Creative Writing.

But that closely guarded tamale recipe still came in handy.

In 2009, Villatoro began a four-year journey that led to the memoir-style documentary “Tamale Road” (*Camino Tamalero*). In the film’s trailer, Villatoro

Photo: Carrie Rosema

The “Tamale Road”
post-production
team: MSMC
professors Kelby
Thwaites, director
Marcos McPeek
Villatoro and
Charles Bunce.





Our family owned this entire mountain.

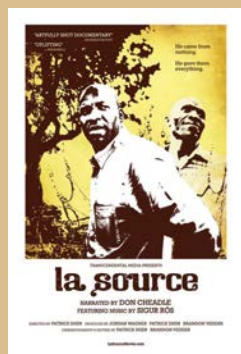


"If you want to live, you have to abandon the country."

FILMFEST

Last November, “Tamale Road” helped to launch Mount St. Mary’s College’s new public film series, FilmFest. The Mount’s next public screening took place April 16, with a showing of “La Source,” an uplifting documentary about a Haitian custodian working at Princeton University who returns to Haiti with a mission to help provide clean water to his countrymen.

The FilmFest series takes place each semester on the College’s Chalon Campus, and includes refreshments and a conversation with the filmmakers. For more info on upcoming FilmFest screenings, e-mail hschraeder@msmc.la.edu.



describes himself as a *pocho*: “A half-breed Latino who knows nothing about his roots.”

“You see, my dad was from the Appalachian Mountains in Tennessee, my mom from a tiny town called Berlin, El Salvador,” Villatoro says. “Dad didn’t speak Spanish. Mom didn’t speak English. So, naturally, they got married. And it lasted for 63 years.”

Growing up in the States, Villatoro felt increasingly detached from his mother’s roots. So, in 2009, he decided to travel to El Salvador in search of his family. And he took his mother’s passed-down tamale recipe with him — a sort of culinary letter of introduction.

Villatoro took with him a film crew that consisted of a director (himself), a producer (his wife, Michelle McPeck), two cinematographers (son José David and daughter Raquel), a sound mixer (son Ben) and a photographer/artist (daughter Emily).

There was only one problem. Nobody in this family film crew had made a movie before.

LOS TRES AMIGOS

Enter Charles Bunce and Kelby Thwaits, instructors in the Mount’s Film, Media & Communication department. Bunce and Thwaits became collaborators, editors, sound technicians and faithful companions through many long nights spent whittling 127 hours of footage into a 97-minute documentary.

“The whole process was a huge learning curve,” Villatoro says. “I was very fortunate to have Charles and Kelby to turn to. And it wasn’t just for small tweaks, either. They truly helped me build this movie.”

Before the McPeck Villatoro clan even went to El Salvador, the family audited Thwaits’ “Digital Video Production” class at the Mount. When the filming ended, Villatoro, Bunce and Thwaits worked as the post-production team to edit the movie, add voiceovers and create a soundtrack.

“I have two great friends because of this movie,” Villatoro says. “That’s one big perk of this long process. When you’re not working on the movie, you’re also talking to each other about family, life, everything under the sun.”

“And food,” Thwaits adds. “We were paid in food for this film: tamales, enchiladas, chicken pot pie, pasta. And caffeine. Lots of caffeine.”



From left to right, starting far left: Two scenes from *Tamale Road*; director Marcos McPeck Villatoro sharing his family's homemade tamales while filming in El Salvador; Villatoro's children/film crew: Ben, José David, Raquel and Emily.

The trio also helped keep each other sane. While it certainly has its lighter moments, “*Tamale Road*” also features some emotionally draining scenes.

“There are really somber, touching parts in this film, but we were still able to talk and laugh about different things,” Bunce says. “The dichotomy between the film’s content and our friendship was incredible at times. But we needed that levity. Sometimes you need to laugh to get through the heavy stuff.”

“WITH OUR FILM PROGRAM AND THE GREATER SOCIAL JUSTICE MISSION OF THE MOUNT, WE’RE TRYING TO EMPOWER YOUNG PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY WOMEN, TO BELIEVE THAT THEY CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. AND HERE’S ONE OF THEIR OWN PROFESSORS CREATING A FILM THAT DOES JUST THAT.”

One of those heavy scenes deals with the slaughter of more than 20,000 indigenous peasants under the direction of former President Maximiliano Martínez, a massacre that Villatoro’s mother survived. The haunting images are accompanied by a sparse guitar piece played by Villatoro, as well as drawings of the massacre created by his daughter Emily.

“It was the most simple, beautiful guitar piece,” Thwaites says. “Just three notes played by Marcos on a classical guitar. And then the drawings that Emily did make the scene so

powerful, because it morphs from the drawings to actual images from the massacre and it hits you: ‘Those drawings are of real people and a real massacre.’”

ROAD’S END

Today, Villatoro is working with an agent to get a wider release for “*Tamale Road*.” The film’s Facebook page already has more than 40,000 likes. And Villatoro has shown the film at a dozen colleges and festivals throughout the United States, El Salvador and Mexico.

Last November, “*Tamale Road*” premiered at the Mount. More than 100 students joined a large Hannon Theater audience to watch the film and to participate in a question-and-answer session with Villatoro, Bunce and Thwaites.

“This movie is really about how I’d lost touch with my roots, and many people can relate to that,” Villatoro says. “I think that’s especially true among second- and third-generation Latinos in the U.S. I’ve learned that from my students here. They are torn between their family’s history and traditions and new lives and new traditions here.”

From their seats in the audience, listening to the gasps, and laughs, of many of their own students, Bunce and Thwaites realized something else about the power of Villatoro’s film.

“With our film program and the greater social justice mission of the Mount, we’re trying to empower young people, especially women, to believe that they can make a difference,” Thwaites says. “And here’s one of their own professors creating a film that does just that. It’s a chance for our students to see how they can do something like this. That they have their own power to create art that actually says something.” ♣



To learn more about “*Tamale Road*,” watch a trailer at <http://www.marcosvillatoro.com/tamaleroad.html>, and visit the film’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/tamaleroad.



In Service to **VETERANS**

**Mount St. Mary's
student-veterans
are helping
to advance a
new mission**

BY PHILLIP JORDAN

Lt. Robert Naranjo '14 deployed to Afghanistan in the fall of 2012. As a logistician in the U.S. Marine Corps, he visited bases throughout the country to gather and return battlefield gear to the United States. It was a daunting task, given that the U.S. military aimed to bring home more than 20,000 shipping containers of equipment used during the course of a 12-year war.

Yet that wasn't the only assignment Naranjo fulfilled during his tour of duty. He also finished two business leadership courses, wrote papers and collaborated with his new MBA cohort back at Mount St. Mary's College. It was all part of a new experiment at the Mount to help active-duty students stay current in their studies, so that they can transition more easily back to the classroom when their deployment ends.

"The Mount helped me to meet my academic requirements while deployed," Naranjo says. "That was important to me because I didn't want to fall behind while I was gone."

More than 2.6 million servicemembers are veterans of the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and many of them are now considering college to help them pursue a new career as civilians. Naranjo's experience is just one example of a broader effort at Mount St. Mary's to increase the College's commitment to a growing number of veterans, active-duty and other military-related students.

Faculty members are learning best practices in how to reintegrate students into the classroom. Expanded funding and community resources are being offered to student-veterans. And the Mount has appointed Madeleine Bruning, an associate professor of nursing and member of the Los Angeles Veterans Collaborative, to serve as the College's dedicated veteran student liaison.

"I feel so deeply indebted to our veterans," Bruning says. "They served their country. They served *me*. This is about how we can serve them."

"Veterans have given so much to our country," says Jane Lingua, vice president for student affairs. "It's our turn to support them as they pursue their education and career goals. We as a community are enriched by the presence of these veterans and by having their voices on our campus and in our classes."

And those voices continue to help the College transform how it serves those who have served all.

Photo: Watchara Phomicinda



Robert Naranjo '14 MBA

First Lieutenant, United States Marine Corps

Master of Business Administration/Graduate Program

When Robert Naranjo '14 MBA left for Afghanistan, he was in the midst of his fall semester. Thanks to a cross-departmental effort back at the Mount, Naranjo's barracks at Camp Leatherneck, in Afghanistan's Helmand Province, doubled as a virtual classroom — and he completed the semester via independent study. Shortly before returning home the following year, Naranjo began working with his new MBA cohort electronically, and stayed up to date by watching his first few classes online.

"I wrote my papers and watched those videos in our camp offices," Naranjo says. "Sometimes it was pretty late at night, but I just figured out a process that fit within my duties there. If education's important to you, you make the time for it."

Back on campus, Naranjo is on pace to graduate this May with his MBA. He has been commuting to the College from San Diego, where he is stationed as an active-duty officer at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. He hopes to eventually move to northern Virginia, where his son, who will turn 2 this summer, lives with his mother.

Before he leaves the Mount, Naranjo is helping by sharing what he learned during his time as a student in the field. "My hats off to everyone here, especially to Dr. Bruning," he says. "It was a learning experience for everyone. I was the guinea pig. I'm sharing my feedback so that in the future this can be done even more seamlessly for those who come after me."

Megan Rodriguez '14

Airman First Class,
United States Air Force
Political Science/
Traditional Undergraduate
Program

Airman Megan Rodriguez '14 spent most of her service with the 5th Security Forces Squadron in a spot far removed from her L.A. home: guarding nuclear weapons at an Air Force base in Minot, N.D.

"It was top-secret clearance and I usually got up around 3:30 in the morning for a 12-hour shift," Rodriguez says. "In the winter, it was 20 degrees below zero and we'd do our drills in the snow."

In 2012, Rodriguez volunteered to opt out of the Air Force at a time when the service branch was trimming its ranks. She then enrolled in the Mount's traditional baccalaureate program, majoring in political science with an eye toward a career in international relations, law or diplomacy.

Rodriguez immersed herself in the College's Women's Leadership program, attended the Mount's Ready to Run campaign training for women, and completed a peer mentor program through the National Society of Leadership and Success. Still, she felt something was absent from her college experience.

"I missed the camaraderie that exists among fellow veterans," she says. So, in the fall of 2012, she formed the Veterans Outreach Association (VOA), and began publicizing the group to students, faculty and staff. She, too, cites the unflagging support of the College's student veteran liaison: "Dr. Bruning is the first person I connected with here. If it wasn't for her, I wouldn't be here and the VOA wouldn't exist. She's been more than a mentor. She's family now."

Through the VOA, Rodriguez has brought guest speakers to campus, organized Masses of Remembrance and hosted meet-and-greet events to bring student veterans together. This spring, VOA members delivered Valentine's cards to fellow veterans at the Fisher House Foundation and participated in a fundraising hike at Mount Baldy through The Heroes Project.

Rodriguez is also reaching out specifically to women veterans, who are statistically less likely to disclose their Armed Forces service.

"Women face a very specific set of issues when they transition back to civilian life," she says. "Especially at a women's college, it's important that we support our women veterans and create a space for them on campus where they feel comfortable."



Photo: Glenn Marzano

Eric Mejia '15

Corporal, United States Marine Corps

Religious Studies/Weekend College Program

Eric Mejia '15 spent seven years in the Marines. As an infantryman, he was stationed in Utah, Hawaii and at California's Camp Pendleton and spent three years as a recruiter in Huntington Park, Calif.

After his service ended, Mejia figured he'd work a while and then go back to school. "Before I knew it, one year turned into another, and another, and soon, a decade had gone by," he says.

But he never gave up the dream of completing his degree. Last year, an alum recommended Mount St. Mary's to Mejia. When he checked out the Mount's Weekend College, he appreciated the schedule structured for working adults and the smaller class sizes. "And there's just a welcoming culture here that really distinguishes the Mount," he says. "That's what won me over."

Today, Mejia is a religious studies major, with a minor in business. This winter, he started a new job in the Mount's business office.

He is also volunteering with groups that assist homeless veterans. Someday, Mejia would like to start a faith-based organization that prevents recently discharged veterans from becoming homeless.

"There's a detachment that can hit you when you get out of the service," he says. "You're so used to military life, the chain of command. And then when you're out, all of a sudden that structure doesn't exist anymore. It can be difficult to adapt."

Over the past two semesters, he has delivered several class presentations that focus on this passion.

"I put off school for so long and it always haunted me," Mejia says. "But there are many other stories out there like mine. I want to be an example for others, to let them know that this is still possible."



Photo: Watchara Phomicinda

"I put off school for so long and it always haunted me, but there are many other stories out there like mine. I want to be an example for others, to let them know that this is still possible."



Photo: Glenn Marzano

"The important thing is simply to connect with our veterans and family members of active-service members. If they connect with others, they're more likely to succeed, and to see that their skills are transferrable to school and a new career."

Making the connection

It's stories like these that inspire Mount St. Mary's to keep improving how the College supports its student-veterans.

Thanks to a partnership with the Center for Innovation and Research on Veterans and Military Families at USC's School of Social Work, the Mount recently hosted a collaborative workshop aimed at creating healthcare strategies for veterans and military families. And in 2013, Mount St. Mary's won a \$50,000 grant from the Ahmanson Foundation to create the Ahmanson Veteran Scholarship Initiative.

"So much of this progress is due to the leadership of Madeleine Bruning, our student veteran liaison," says Diane Vines, dean of nursing. "She has dedicated her efforts to supporting and assisting our veteran students with compassion, thoughtfulness and intelligence. She has taught all of us to care and to go the extra mile for these students."

Together, Bruning and Vines regularly lead a workshop on reintegrating veterans into higher education. The workshop assists faculty, staff and College administration in understanding the uniqueness of military culture, and in learning best practices for enriching veterans' experiences in the classroom and on campus.

"The most important thing is simply to connect with our veterans and family members of active-service members," Bruning says. "If they connect with others, they're more likely to succeed, and to see that their skills are transferrable to school and a new career." ♣

@ To learn more about veterans services at Mount St. Mary's College, visit msmc.la.edu/veterans. Veterans, active-duty and other military-related students, alumni, faculty and staff are invited to join the Mount's Veterans Outreach Association. Visit facebook.com/msmc.voa or e-mail msmc.voa@gmail.com.

For the Webers, it's all in the family

Mount St. Mary's College has been entwined with the life of Suzanne (Weber) Hoffman '84, truly from the very beginning. On the September day when she was born, her father dropped her older sister off for her freshman year at the Mount. "Then dad swung by the hospital and picked up me and mom," Hoffman recalls.

A few years later, "I was at my sister's College graduation at 4 years old, sleeping during the ceremony," Hoffman says.

The family's three-generation Mount tradition began decades before, with her aunts Julia (Weber) Lopker '45 and Sister Mary Vibiana, CSC, '61 MA, and her mother, Jean (Flanagan) Weber '46. Hoffman's sisters all went to the Mount – Margaret (Weber) Susank '66, Barbara (Weber) Smith '72, and Joan (Weber) Galvin '82 – plus a niece, Patricia Weber '09. Now one of her daughters, Maureen Hoffman '16, is a nursing major at the College.

Hoffman's family shares a deep sense of alumnae pride in MSMC. They have generously set up an endowed scholarship with the College, as well as the Weber Family Expendable Scholarship. "The Mount is special because it's like family," Hoffman says. "You can go anywhere and if you know that someone is a Mount student or a Mount grad, it's like opening a door to a new friendship. You don't have that feeling at big universities and big colleges," she adds. "It's just really intimate. All the people at the College are really interested in how well you do, and they love to hear about your successes."

Hoffman has built her career as an executive with The Boeing Company, the world's largest aerospace firm, for 28 years. Throughout her adult life, Hoffman says returning to the Mount has been like coming home.



Suzanne (Weber) Hoffman, far right, with three generations of Weber family MSMC alums.

"One thing that has remained the same is the College's commitment to higher education and to maintaining a competitive academic tradition. Also, there is always a sense of belonging and being a part of something."

Her daughter, Maureen, spent her teenage years attending Mount alumnae board meetings with Suzanne. "She wanted to go into nursing and she is really benefitting from a small college environment. I think the choice for her was clear. She has excelled in the nursing program and has really connected with new friends," Hoffman says.

Hoffman has kept in close contact with friends from the Mount, and even continues to see classmates of her mother and aunt. "When we come back for reunions, I know all about my classmates and I can't wait to hear more. At the last Homecoming, it wasn't even my class that was celebrating the big reunion. But my friends and I were so connected with the class before and after our year, we made a whole weekend of the event."

It was as though no time had passed since the last time Hoffman reconnected with her Mount family. "Everyone got together and brought out old pictures, and we shared the fun times we had at the College," she says. ♣

— Joanna Banks

With thanks for these recent gifts

Oak Foundation — Provided \$856,598 to support the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media at Mount St. Mary's College with the project "Global Impact of Filmed Entertainment on Girls and Women." The project will help illustrate the gender representation and portrayals in family films from various countries around the world and to provide solutions, recommendations, and a call to action.

The Dudley T. Dougherty Foundation — Provided \$10,000 to support the College's Women's Leadership Program.

class notes

'47

Lorraine (Murphy) Purnell says the mission bells rang on Feb. 20, 1949, when she married Dr. William E. Purnell at Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcala in San Diego. Joining in the celebration of their 65th anniversary were their children Dr. William E. Purnell Jr., Dr. Mark L. Purnell, Cathleen (Purnell) Farrell, Brian L. Purnell, and Dr. Jonathan Q. Purnell, and their families.

'58

Maria Alicia Martinez was presented with the 2013 Docent of the Year award by the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County last June. She has been a docent at the museum since 2006.

'59

Kathleen (Halloran) Koziolk represented the Winona Diocese Council of Catholic Women of Southern Minnesota at the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington, D.C., in February 2013, and plans to repeat in 2014. She continues to serve as parliamentarian for the diocesan council. She received the Bishop's Medal for service to the diocese and parish CCW in October and the 2013 Outstanding Service Award from the Minnesota Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, of which she is a past president. She still substitute teaches and volunteers as a driver for Senior Ride Services and as an elementary reading tutor. Because her son, Stefan, is a pilot for Southwest Airlines, she gets to travel to attend church and professional conferences and visit family on both coasts, as well as attend reunions at the Mount and Mater Dei High School in Santa Ana, Calif.

'61

Linda (Cox) Stellern had a wonderful time with her husband, Gary, visiting Waikiki and the island of Maui in May 2013. They took their daughter, Suzanne, for her 50th birthday.



Photo: MSMC Archives

Celebrating Paul Salamunovich: 1927–2014

Chorale master and MSMC alum Paul Salamunovich '61, passed away April 3, 2014. A maestro of choral music, he is remembered with love and admiration by students and alums who were forever changed by the experience of making music with him during his years at the Mount. A conductor and music director with the Los Angeles Master Chorale, Salamunovich maintained close ties to his alma mater throughout his career. He served as an instructor and as a conductor of the Mount Chorus and Mount Singers, and remained a steadfast friend of the College.

'63

Bobbi (Dummel) Brunner continues to edit class notes for The Mount magazine. In October 2013, she attended a reunion of College roommates. This past summer, she spent 17 days with her husband, Phil, in Peru on an archaeological tour, which included visiting Machu Picchu. The tour was led by a professor from Northern Arizona University and was the culmination of her lifelong dream to visit the country.

Nance Slattery organized a weekend in October 2013 in Laughlin, Nev., for the reunion of several former roommates who live in the Arizona/Nevada/California area. Attending the reunion were **Kate Earnhart, Margaret (Potter) Eckert, Patricia (Thompson) Sando, Jodi (Mullins) Radovcich** and **Bobbi (Dummel) Brunner**. Some of these friends hadn't seen each other in 50 years!

'66

Paula Meichtry visited Bhutan and northern Nepal near the Tibetan border in September 2013. Only 1,500 tourists are allowed in a year. There is no road connecting lower Nepal to this area, so she and her traveling companions were on foot and horseback. If you read "The Pillars of the Earth," which was set in the 14th century, it describes living conditions similar to what exist today.

'67

Rose Marie (Whaley) Tashima and her husband, Roger, celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary in 2012. She also arranged a surprise 80th birthday party for Roger in Las Vegas for 38 family members. In January 2013, they traveled to Antarctica, which has become her favorite trip. This January they visited Austria, first touring Vienna and then skiing in Saalbach-Hinterglemm.

'68

Jill (Ficks) Friedman recently published her first book, "The Retreat," a fictional tale of eight women who struggle with life's issues and attend a retreat to help shed self-imposed mental shackles. She set out to tackle serious topics in a fun and entertaining way.

'69

Michele (Tamac) D'Amico is celebrating her retirement. After more than 30 years of teaching high school English, she finally has time to enjoy being a grandmother and accompany her grandchildren to their preschool and second-grade class activities. She was also able to stay with her own 87-year-old mother during her final days last November. She says she is blessed.

'70

Jane Marshall is a landscape designer in the Los Angeles area. With more than 40 years in the business, her clients have included Frank Sinatra, Dinah Shore, Geoffrey's Restaurant in Malibu and most recently The Witch's House garden in Beverly Hills. One of her most recent works is a 50-foot natural stone and glass tile work called "Zen Wall."

Sue (Keeler) Beltran and Carol (Busby) Strother visited Australia and New Zealand to celebrate their retirements and their 65th birthdays. Sue retired in June 2013 after 25 years of teaching and Carol retired in June 2012 after 42 years of nursing.

Marcia (Broadus) Greiten retired from 24 years of service at Santa Barbara Bank & Trust after it was bought by Union Bank in May 2013. She is returning to Goleta, Calif., to enjoy the Central Coast sunshine after living in Lompoc, Calif., for six years. She looks forward to spending more time with her six grandchildren, along with traveling and taking classes at Santa Barbara City College.

'72

Elizabeth (Kelly) Stephenson lives in Bend, Ore., in a house with a big front porch with her husband, three cats and two poodles. Her debut book,

a memoir titled "The Trouble with Truth," was released on Amazon and Kindle this February. "The Trouble with Truth" tells the tale of a woman caught in a cycle of destructive relationships with men. She finds freedom and clarity with the help of a talented counselor.

'73

Karen (Macey) Jackson is currently a supervising public health nurse for the Health Care Agency in Orange County, Calif., and the county's SIDS coordinator. She served as president of The Southern California Regional SIDS Council and chaired the annual California SIDS Conference in October 2012.

'75

Acinta (Rafols) Monteverde got married in 2013 and also welcomed her first grandchild, a granddaughter named London, the same year. She is happily married and enjoys being a grandma.

'79

April (Hazard) Vallerand is the inaugural holder of the Alumni Endowed Professorship in the Wayne State University College of Nursing.

'80

Gina (Poli) MacPherson created "Cabins in the Woods," a kaleidoscope quilt that won a first-place ribbon and a Best of Show ribbon at the Madera County Fair held in September 2013. She also received first place on her "Springtime Birdies" greenwork (embroidery) quilt, and first place for her miniature "Fairy Throne." During the fair, she presented a two-hour workshop on quilting for kids. She has only been quilting for two years.

'81

Jean Gima and Marsha Sato '77, both Mount faculty, have written an abstract, "Award for Best Picture," which was selected for a podium presentation at the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's 2014 Master's Education Conference in Scottsdale, Ariz., in February.

'83

Maria Quintanilla says 2013 was a year filled with many milestones. In May, she celebrated her 30th graduation anniversary from the Doheny Campus. In August, she celebrated her 20th anniversary as a licensed clinical social worker. And in the fall she started a new journey as a part-time field liaison/lecturer at California State University, Long Beach in the social work graduate program. She is the founder and executive director of Latino Family Institute, a nonprofit adoption, foster care and family support agency located in West Covina, Calif. On a personal note, she celebrated her 50th birthday in June, and she and her husband, Oscar, celebrated their 30th anniversary in December. Their oldest son, Isaak, turned 23 in November and their youngest, Emar, turned 22 in December.

'88

Nina (Carter) Sonovia is the founding director of Solonco Neurobiofeedback and Psychotherapy Institute (an executive and peak performance company). She has been named to the advisory board of Transparent Corporation, and has partnered with Denver Community Credit Union to facilitate their annual financial goal-setting series.

Patricia (Espinoza) Fernandez works for the Lakeside Union School District in Lakeside, Calif., as vice principal at Eucalyptus Hills Elementary and Winter Gardens Elementary. She is also a doctoral candidate at San Diego State University, focusing on issues of equity and access in dual language immersion classrooms. She is a board member of the nonprofit Whispering Winds Catholic Camp & Conference Center in Julian, Calif., and teaches weekly religious education classes at Mater Dei Catholic Church in Chula Vista, Calif.

'91

Bernadette (Caballes) Walker's original poem, "good housekeeping," appeared in the October 2013 issue of Full of Crow, an online poetry publication.

alum community

Gina M. Ursell-Ross and her husband celebrated their 20th anniversary last June. One of their wedding guests was former Mount professor Sister James Marien Dyer '68, CSJ.

'92

Michelle Marks recently presented a scientific paper at the Scoliosis Research Society annual meeting in Lyon, France, in September 2013. The podium presentation was entitled "The Effect of Time and Fusion Length on Motion of the Un-fused Lumbar Segments in Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis." She is the research/executive director of the Setting Scoliosis Straight Foundation. She earned a master's in biomechanical research from San Diego State University. Before moving on to scoliosis research, she treated pediatric physical therapy patients at Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego.

'93

Wendy (Nobles) Meehan is the mother of three: Caitlyn is 19 and a sophomore at Pepperdine University, Elizabeth is 14, and Seamus is 11. She is entering her fourth year as the owner of Curves in La Mirada, Calif. As a gerontology graduate, she enjoys having the opportunity to prevent premature nursing home placement for older adults at the earliest stage of intervention.

'94

Ellen Kuhnert joined Fastaff and U.S. Nursing as vice president of business development in December 2013.

'95

Monica Lond-Le Blanc has been certified as a global career development facilitator by the Center for Credentialing and Education. She also celebrated her one-year anniversary working as a career counselor/implementation specialist for SEIU-UHW West & Joint Employer Education Fund.

'98

Giovanna Brasfield received the Community Service award from the Association of Pan African Doctoral Scholars at the University of Southern California on Nov. 10, 2013.

'99



◀ **Jenelle Benoit** was featured on a segment of "Oprah's Lifeclass" covering the social issue of colorism, the hierarchy of skin color within African American communities. She is included in the beginning of the episode speaking from her perspective and also as a guest on the show. This topic was first brought to her attention in a class taken at MSMC, and her awareness and passion on the issue has grown. She encourages other students and alums to raise their awareness of this social issue that challenges cultures throughout the world.

'00

Kay Murdy announces that her novel, "Song of the Dove," a story of Mary of Nazareth, was published in December 2013 by ACTA Publications.

'01

Steve De Muth graduated in May 2013 from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, where he received the Rt. Rev. Richard Millard Prize for Excellence in Preaching. Steven was ordained deacon in June 2013 by the Rt. Rev. Mary Glasspool of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles. He is serving as parish deacon at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Covina, Calif.

Ana Grande works for ONE, an advocacy organization cofounded by Bono of the band U2, and is an adjunct instructor for the Religious Studies department at the Mount.

'02

Mitzie Vitela was recently promoted to associate director of the externship program at Southwestern Law School. As a reward to herself, she will be backpacking through Central Europe this summer.

'03

Geovanna (Henao) Watters is proud to announce that she is a 2013-2014 Latina Global Executive Leadership Program Fellow at USC.

'04

Olivia Rubio was named to the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, representing the East Planning Region, by Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti.

'06

Marissa Smith is beginning doctoral work in film studies at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, England. Most importantly, she is now the social media manager and archivist for the actor John Hurt.

Susanne Robbins was elected to the Culver City Unified School District Board of Education in November 2013.

'07

Jenny Park was recently hired at Mother of Sorrows School in Los Angeles as a sixth-grade homeroom teacher.

'10

Jonathon Hicks earned his MBA from the Mount in December 2010 and returned in August 2012 to take the first offering of the project management concentration. He is the first student to earn the Project Management Professional (PMP) credential at the Mount.

'11

Edgar Perez is teaching his first class, Global Business, at the Mount this semester. This has been a goal of his since graduating from the College, and he is glad he can contribute to his alma mater. He will teach a course on marketing in the summer.

'12

Vertice Williams is a recording artist and voting member of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (The Grammys). She graduated with her bachelor's in sociology, remained on the Dean's List during her tenure at the Mount, and is a lifetime member of Pi Gamma Mu Honors Society for Behavioral Scientists. She is also a current member of Mount St. Mary's WECAN Alumnae Board. She recently became a realtor with Keller Williams, Hollywood Hills.

'13

Jeff Fust works for Pax et Bonum Communications, a nonprofit organization specializing in social justice filmmaking, in particular the creation of media content that aims to help the poor. After receiving his MBA in May 2013, he was promoted from video editor to producer/editor for the organization, which means in addition to the editing, he is now also in charge of fundraising, project management, and creative decision-making for the films they produce.



◀ **Pam K. Ghuman**
'13 is now a registered nurse working at Barlow Respiratory Hospital in Los Angeles.

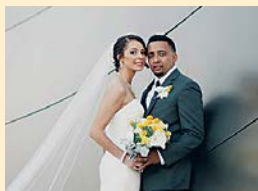
marriages



'74 ⬆ **Acinta (Rafols) Monteverde** to Robert Bailey



'80 ⬆ **Gina Poli** to Scott MacPherson



'06 ⬆ **Michelle Marez** to Osvaldo Lopez
'08 **Taline Hanna** to Nazo Koulloukian



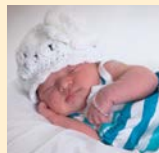
'08 ⬆ **Cynthia Hernandez** to Roberto Gonzalez
'10 **Leilani Ford** to Reynaldo Chavez

births

The Alumnae Association extends congratulations to the following alums and their spouses on their new additions:

- '01 Aislinn Reese Colbert to Felicia (Haronis) Colbert, 3rd child
- '03 Parker Thomas Bobrowski to Hannah (Cvammen) Bobrowski, 3rd child

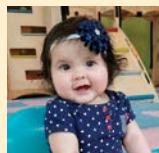
- '03 ♠ **Sofia Aurora** to Laura (Escalona) Barragan and Raul Anthony Barragan '12, 1st child
- '03 Sebastian to Tracey Carlos Guerrero, 1st child



- '03 ♠ **John Cesar Augusto** to Elsa Pazmino Hunt, 1st child
- '05 Kai to Joanne Cook, 1st child
- '05 Madeline Kay to Kathleen (Gamble) Hock, 1st child



- '09 ♠ **Elena Perez** to Edgar Perez, 2nd child
- '11 Jude Jack Garcia to Bridget (Sikorski)



in memoriam

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the souls of:

- mother of Jane Lingua (CR)
- '39 Margaret Moran
- '42 Virginia (Sunseri) Giacomelli
- '46 Genevieve (Escallier) Baillif
- '46 Vivian (Primising) Ahle

- '49 Marilyn (Wetzel) Pestolesi
- '49 Mildred (Lerch) Meadows
- '53 Sister St. George Skurla, CSJ
- '54 Sister Jeanne Anne Cacioppo, CSJ
- '54 husband of Anne (Park) Kraemer
- '56 Jane (Marshall) Talso
- '58 brother of Charlene (Rule) Wilkinson
- '59 husband of Ann (Bouchard) Westigard
- '61 Peggy (Beauclair) Hurdle
- '61 husband of Yolanda (Ponce) Landis
- '62 Linda (Marsh) Mason
- '64 husband of Peggy (Leahy) Starr
- '69 Jill (Kozeluh) Cavanaugh
- '70 mother of Yvonne (Cassady) Gabor
- '71 husband of Armida De La Rosa
- '72 Doris (Getzinger) Holmes
- '73 husband of Joan (Gumaer) Tyhurst
- '75 Rev. William Brelsford
- '76 Dorothy (Matlick) Caruso-Herman
- '81 mother of Judy Boster-Mark
- '82 father of Susan (Haselton) Haas
- '95 mother and father of Linda America
- '96 Wanda Kelley-Solomon
- '97 mother of David Burkitt
- '02 mother of Elizabeth (Zima) Cottrell
- '03 grandmother of Catherine (Rutkowski) Wygal
- '05 father of Rocio De Leon Avila
- '10 Jennifer Solorio
- '13 grandfather of Susan Rodriguez

advanced degrees

The Alumnae Association congratulates the following alums for their successful pursuit of intellectual achievement:

- '96 Michelle Brown-Parker, MLS in library and Information studies, Texas Woman's University, December 2012
- '08 Guadalupe Salgado, MS in psychology, Mount St. Mary's College, May 2013

go green
with The Mount

To stay updated on events and news, send your email address to alums@msmc.la.edu

JOIN US

Wine Tasting in the City

Indulge in artisan wines, excite your taste buds with gourmet bites from some of Los Angeles' most popular food trucks and groove the night away with live music. This special event will take place on Saturday, June 7, on the beautiful South Lawn at Mount St. Mary's Doheny Campus. For more information, e-mail the Mount's Alumnae Relations department at alums@msmc.la.edu.

Women's Leadership Conference

The 2013 Women's Leadership Conference at Mount St. Mary's College in Los Angeles featured women leaders from a wide variety of fields — including nationally renowned heart surgeon Dr. Kathy Magliato and Paralympic medalist and former White House economic adviser Bonnie St. John. An annual leadership experience for women, last year's Women's Leadership Conference sold out almost two weeks in advance last year. Don't miss your seat this time! For more info, visit www.msmc.la.edu/WLC.

Homecoming 2014

Save the date! Homecoming 2014 festivities are set for Saturday, Oct. 11. Visit with longtime friends and make some new ones back home at the Mount. Take part in many of your favorite annual traditions — and enjoy a few surprises! Complete info will be posted this summer at www.msmc.la.edu/Homecoming. All alums will also receive an official invitation to the event. Want to make sure you're in the know? Contact alums@msmc.la.edu to make sure you're receiving The Mount Connection, MSMC's bite-sized, monthly e-newsletter specifically for alums.

Cruise the waterways of Russia

The sights, history and cultural experiences of the world's largest country are yours to discover during an exciting 11-night cruise through Russia, Sept. 7–19, 2015. In Moscow, enjoy visits to the Kremlin, the Armory Museum and Red Square, which is dominated by colorful St. Basil's Cathedral. See traditional Russian architecture in Uglich and Yaroslavl. Marvel at 18th Century wooden architecture on Kizhi Island. Stop in Svirstroy, a peaceful hamlet and



enjoy a private visit to the home of a local family for a unique perspective of everyday life in Russia.

Conclude your adventure in St. Petersburg, Peter the Great's capital. Attend a show at the Hermitage Theater, visit the State Hermitage Museum and see Catherine's Palace with its exquisite Amber Room. This trip includes first-class accommodations on the AmaKatarina cruise ship, excursions and an extensive meal plan with wine at dinner. Contact Jeanne Ruiz in the Mount's Alumnae Relations office for information and to register: jaruiz@msmc.la.edu.

upcoming events

- | | |
|----------|---|
| April 24 | Laurel Day (Doheny) |
| April 25 | Mount Chorus & Singers Spring Concert (Doheny) |
| April 26 | Da Camera Society concert: Heloisa Fernandes (Doheny) |
| April 26 | Mary's Day (Chalon) |
| May 12 | Commencement (Shrine Auditorium) |
| May 31 | Da Camera Society concert: Les Sync with Buffy Baggott (Doheny) |
| June 7 | Wine Tasting (Doheny) |
| July 12 | Doheny Mansion Tour (Doheny) |

save the date

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Sept. 20 | Women's Leadership Conference (Chalon) |
| Oct. 11 | Homecoming 2014 (Chalon) |
| Oct. 18 | Doheny Mansion Tour (Doheny) |

This calendar represents only some of the events at Mount St. Mary's College. For more up-to-date listings, visit www.msmc.la.edu. For alum events, visit www.msmcalums.la.edu.



(Left) Jean Moynier '62 pours coffee for fellow seniors Ock (Hyang) Byun '62 and Elizabeth (McCready) Stark '62 in the living room of the Casa.

(Below) Senior Lynda (Lathrop) Callos '60 and home economics professor Sister Cecile Therese Beresford, CSJ, try out the new electric range in Casa Margarita, the Home Management Lab in Carondelet Hall.



The Casa — a real 'home' away from home

For 55 years, the ground floor of Carondelet Hall on the Chalon Campus has been known as the Casa. But its current purpose — as undergraduate housing — is just the latest in a list of functions it has served since it opened in February 1959.

"Casa" is shorthand for Casa Margarita, named for Sister Marguerite Ellard, CSJ, who founded the home economics department in 1932. When plans for the ultra-modern Carondelet Hall were finalized in 1958, they incorporated her vision for a state-of-the-art laboratory for senior home economics students. The Home Management Lab was actually an eight-room apartment with its own entrance, and fitted with a large kitchen and the latest appliances, a dining room, an ocean-view terrace, and a living room with a wood-burning fireplace. Groups of four to six seniors and a CSJ faculty member spent several weeks each semester in the Casa doing their own cooking, shopping, budgeting, laundry and household chores. The budget was far from lavish, so students learned to create healthy, appetizing meals with limited funds. If friends dropped by unexpectedly for dinner, the Casa "family" was expected to provide it. Teas, receptions and dressy dinner parties were also part of the curriculum.

After home economics waned as a major the Casa still found plenty of special occupants. Honors colloquia, cooking clubs and summer sports camps all took their turn. In the mid-1990s, commuter students in the Adult Learners program could reserve a place to live and study during finals. As part of an experiment in "theme housing" on both campuses in 1999, the Casa became home to the "Community About Serving All," a small group of students interested in service and social justice.

While many of its original amenities — including the fireplace — are gone, the Casa still lives up to its original role: a special home away from home. ♣

— Victoria McCargar, College archivist



10 Chester Place
Los Angeles, CA 90007

Change service requested

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LOS ANGELES, CA
PERMIT NO. 22801



*Read the magazine on your
tablet or smartphone!*

NOW AVAILABLE ON iOS and ANDROID

Download the Mount app on your iPad and iPhone, or Android tablet and smartphone to read digital editions of the magazine, the Mount St. Mary's College viewbook and annual President's Report! MSMC digital publications feature embedded video, slideshows, interactive table of contents and much more.

Search for "MSMC" in the iTunes App Store and Google Play.

An interactive digital version of The Mount is available at www.msmc.la.edu/magazine.



facebook.com/msmcla



twitter.com/msmcla



instagram.com/msmcla



youtube.com/msmcla